

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01003 221659Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 HA-05 COME-00 ACDA-12
/100 W

-----086246 230528Z /17

R 221536Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0336
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONGEN BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PEPR, EI, UK
SUBJECT: MASON-O'KENNEDY TALKS

1. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) REP HAS ADVISED US THAT IT NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT MEETING BETWEEN NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY ROY MASON AND IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY WILL MATERIALIZE BEFORE PRIME MINISTERS CALLAGHAN AND LYNCH JOIN OTHER EEC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN COPENHAGEN EARLY NEXT MONTH. DEATH OF FORMER IRISH PRESIDENT O'DALAIGH, WITH FUNERAL SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 23, HAS RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF MEETING FOR REST OF THIS WEEK AND MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OVER AGENDA AND PARTICIPANTS PERSIST.

2. GOI APPARENTLY REITERATED ITS POSITION YESTERDAY TO BRITISH OFFICIALS THAT AGENDA FOR MASON-O'KENNEDY TALKS COULD NOT BE CONFINED TO SECURITY MATTERS, BUT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES. IRISH ARE PRESSING FOR PRE-MEETING BRITISH COMMITMENT TO "SPECIFIC MOVEMENTS" ON LATER CATEGORIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS, PARTIALLY IF NOT

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01003 221659Z

PRIMARILY AS PUBLIC TESTAMENT TO THEIR NATURE. ON PARTICIPANTS, GOI IS "NOT WILLING TO DEPART FROM PRECEDENT" SET IN PREVIOUS BILATERAL MEETINGS BY INCLUSION OF NI CHIEF CONSTABLE AND IRISH GARDA COMMISSIONER. THE GOI OBJECTION IS NOT TO A MEETING OF POLICE OFFICIALS PER SE (THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT A VARIETY OF LEVELS IN PAST) BUT TO THEIR INCLUSION IN POLITICAL LEVEL TALKS.

3. DFA REP OBSERVED THAT CHANCES FOR BREAK THROUGH WHICH WOULD ALLOW MASON-O'KENNEDY MEETING TO TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK SEEM SLIGHT. GOI HAS, IN FACT, NOW FORMALLY REQUESTED 1 1/2 - 2 HOUR LYNCH-CALLAGHAN MEETING DURING EEC SUMMIT FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. OFFICIALS HOPE THAT AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THIS LEVEL WOULD GIVE A "USEFUL NEW DIRECTION" TO BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT GOI WILL BEND ON THIS ONE. THE MESSAGE COMES THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR THAT IRISH OFFICIALS WOULD JUST AS SOON NOT PROCEED WITH MASON VISIT AT THIS TIME AND THEY ARE CERTAINLY NOT INCLINED TO DO SO ON OTHER THAN THEIR OWN TERMS. SHANNON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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